

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/090350 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H03H 7/40**

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(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US03/11028**

(22) International Filing Date: **11 April 2003 (11.04.2003)**

(25) Filing Language: **English**

(26) Publication Language: **English**

(30) Priority Data:
60/373,204 17 April 2002 (17.04.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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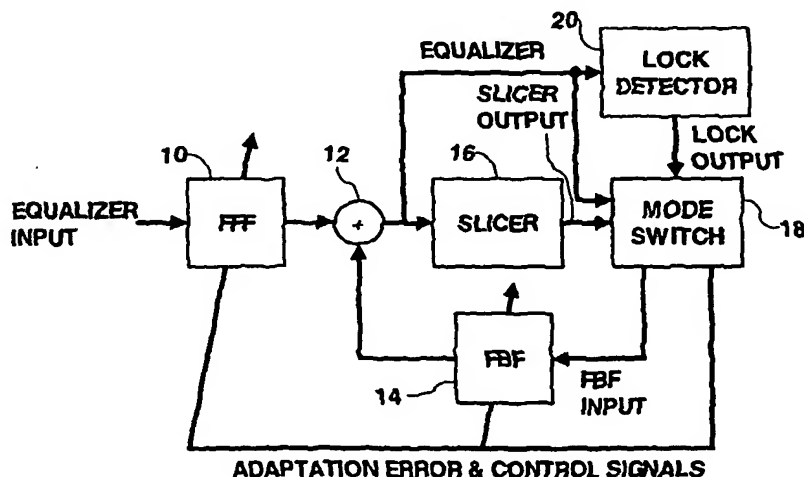
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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **EQUALIZER MODE SWITCH**



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for automatically selecting one of a standard decision directed (dd) mode and a soft dd mode in a decision feedback equalizer (DFE) for receiving a data signal comprises an equalizer for providing a DFE output signal and having a control input responsive to a control signal exhibiting a first value for selecting the standard dd mode and a second value for selecting the soft dd mode. The equalizer includes a lock detector (20) having an output for providing a lock signal indicative of equalizer convergence. The apparatus includes a mode selector (18) having an input coupled to the lock detector (20) output and having an output coupled to the control input for providing an output signal exhibiting one of the first

and second values depending upon characteristics of the lock signal.